

☐ UNCLASSIFIED

☐ INTERNAL
USE ONLY

☐ CONFIDENTIAL

☐ SECRET

Approved For Release 2001/08/31 : CIA-RDP78-06207A000200050004-7

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Written Comments on Mr. Helms, Colby, and the four DD's on NWC presentations

FROM:

1036, C. of C. Bldg.

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

19 October 1972

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

STATINTL

1. Deputy Director of
Training

Boyd 15 R

2.

3.

DIR

Seen by DTR R

delivered the
attached to me this afternoon.
If you want this retyped, let me
know. RW

5.

DDS

ILLEGIB

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.


12.

13.

14.

15.

STATINTL


I hope these comments will be of some use. Sorry they seem to take so critical a tone, but I felt that there was to purpose in pretending that things were peachy when in fact they were not.

Forgive my wretched typing; I was unwilling to put this in the hands of any typist over here, and I wanted to get it in to you promptly.

Mr. Coffey and I had a moment to chat after the panel session, and I mentioned that I would be sending this to you. If you decide to forward the whole text of the brief report I would ask that you have it transcribed by someone who knows where the keys are on these cursed machines!

Regards,


STATINTL

Memo for: Deputy Director of Training

Subject : Presentations by DCI, Executive Director-Comptroller and Deputy Directors
Before the National War College Class of 1973, 17 October 1972

STATINTL

1. In response to a request conveyed by [REDACTED] of your staff, my CIA colleagues and I made an informal canvass of our National War College classmates following the appearances at the NWC on 17 October 1972 of the Director of Central Intelligence, the Executive Director-Comptroller and the four Deputy Directors. We wish we could report that comments were uniformly favorable, but in fact the prevailing reaction seemed one of disappointment.
2. Speaking first about the Director's presentation, a number of our classmates noted that the prepared text on the organization of the Intelligence Community duplicated to some extent information which had been covered in the assigned readings for this topic. (We realize that the NWC bears the responsibility for selecting the speech topic and the readings, but student remarks do not take these facts into account.) Criticizing further, some students observed that in the prepared remarks the Director seemed to be talking down to his audience, and they claimed that the tone set by the speech inhibited them during the question and answer period and the subsequent meeting with the other Agency officials. In voicing these criticisms the majority of those commenting qualified their remarks with highly complimentary comments about the Director's manner and authoritativeness, and about the ease and fluency with which he fielded the questions which were asked. Clearly they were far more enthusiastic about this ^{extemporaneous} part of the presentation than they were about the prepared speech.

3. A number of comments were made about the feeling of being over-awed, even intimidated, by the Director's position in our government, and some students attributed to this sense of deference their reluctance to ask more probing questions. Some mentioned that the school had made it more difficult to achieve a more open dialogue by classifying the session Secret; many felt constrained because they assumed the questions of concern to them might involve a higher classification.

then invited questions for a panel comprised of himself and the four Deputy Directors, suffered from some of the same limitations, in the eyes of many students. Mr. Colly's remarks and charts duplicated much that had been covered in the Director's speech and the readings, and this repetition was apparently taken as a signal that only purely organizational questions would be welcome. Some questions did break away from these constraints, of course, but the current was common enough among class members to merit mention here. The five representatives were praised for their candid, knowledgeable responses (which seems to contradict in part what is reported immediately above), and there was gratification that the Agency had proven its interest in the NAC by sending so senior a delegation. The over-all impression reported to us, however, was one of disappointment that the session had not been more productive.

5. One perceptive classmate observed wryly that the disappointment was self-induced because outsiders cannot help approaching CIA briefings with the hope that they will hear "the real, inside scoop" about current clandestine activities. Of course they can't and won't be given such revelations, and they realize that they can't and won't, but the things they can and do hear are tame in comparison with their "007" preconceptions. Whatever the truth of this observation, those of us from the Agency who are in the NAC Class of '73 believe that our classmates missed a golden opportunity. They won't often have the chance to question CIA's senior managers about the Agency's activities, and they certainly did not take full advantage of the chance they had here.

6. To some extent the comments reported above reflect the peculiar chemistry of a particular group of people on a particular day. Another group, or this same group on a different day, might generate quite different reactions. Any group might feel the sense of inhibition mentioned by our classmates, however, and to eliminate this possibility during future visits the school should be urged to announce in advance of any sessions on CIA that Agency spokesmen will welcome any question on the Agency's role, with the necessary proviso that answers are always subject to the limits dictated by classification,

sensitivity and need to know. Perhaps the Agency's student contingent could also serve as "advance men" to get this same message across to classmates. Such efforts will be worth while if they help avoid the disappointment reflected in the comments reported above.

STATINTL



NWC Class of 1973